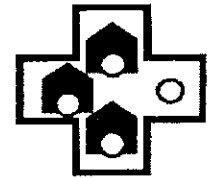




GENNESARET FREE CLINIC



NEWS

Volume 7 Issue 8 "And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58 Feb.-March, 1995

◆ Annual Meeting

Anne Ryder to Address GFC at Park Tudor

This year's Annual GFC Meeting will be quite some treat. As has been the custom, our clinic serving the homeless, will beg someone else's home for its 7th Anniversary Celebration. We have been honored by being accepted by Park Tudor School. The meeting place will be the Upper Commons, a casual gathering place especially suited for a meeting this size with light refreshments. GFC members will be welcomed with free parking for our meeting to be held Wednesday February 8 from 6 to 8pm.

Also in keeping with tradition, GFC will hear words of encouragement from one of Indianapolis' most recognized and respected celebrities, WTHR-13 news anchor Anne Ryder. She will bring her interest in medical issues in the community and her kind thoughts about GFC to the meeting.

So please come to celebrate your health work for the poor at GFC, meet Ms. Ryder, and see the facilities of Park Tudor School. Of course, you will need reservations. Call right now, leave your name on the GFC answering machine at 262-5645 or call for details from Jewell or Mary Jo. See you there!



Volunteer Health Care for the Poor and Homeless

Tribute to Board Members Gregori, Trainor, and Draper

The Board of Directors of GFC will be dramatically different in 1995 with the loss of three of the most active and involved members.

Nancy Gregori, a charter board member, has been involved from the first year of GFC's existence. She answered volunteers calls for years, organized schedules, treated homeless persons in the streets, stocked medicines, addressed community meetings on behalf of GFC, hosted GFC picnics, raised funds year after year, supervised students, trained volunteers and so much more. She has literally done every job in GFC - some times many at once. GFC wishes Nancy well in her continued academic pursuits.

Dr. Don Trainor was treating the homeless before there ever was a GFC. He has been involved in GFC boards for 6 years, spoken on behalf of GFC repeatedly, represented GFC at organizational meetings, been a consistent Holy Family volunteer physician, and provided medical guidance for many medical decisions. Dr. Trainor will be devoting more time to the leadership of Methodist Health Net.

Monette Draper has been superactive with GFC for the past 4 years.

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◆ Medical Liability

Volunteer Health Law

Coming before the Indiana State Legislature this January session will be important measures concerning volunteer health care. For several years running, legislation has been introduced supporting immunity for volunteer health providers only to be soundly defeated each time. This year promises to be vastly different.

The legislation proposing immunity for charitable health providers has been opposed each time in the last three years because "it does not provide clients due recourse in the event of injury." This continues to be voiced even though this legislation exists in 8 states and provisions for exclusion of immunity are included for gross negligence and willful misconduct. Even with the opposition, Sen. Reigsecker has authored Senate Bill 76 this year with these same provisions.

What is new this year is that the Indiana State Medical Association for the first time is actively lobbying for a bill from the Senate to cover medical liability insurance for charitable providers through the Tort Claims Act. In effect, all volunteer health providers serving the poor only through free clinics would be insured for this activity through malpractice paid out the the Tort Claims Act pool of funds. This would mean that retired

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◆ News from GFC

Shelter Health Fair sets record

This year's Shelter Health Fair saw more clients than the past 5 events. Even though there was very mild weather that has kept numbers low in past years, more clients were seen. 537 clients were provided immunizations, blood pressure testing, TB skin testing, eye and dental exams, and referral for corrective lenses or dental treatment, and treatment for blood pressure. This year there was a remarkably low rate of TB skin test positivity (about 15%) compared to previous years and other cities. Hopefully this is a sign of our hard work providing weekly health care in the shelters of Indianapolis!

Care Center says Thanks

When Stephens wishes to thank GFC members and volunteers for the many donations given over the past year. "We are grateful for all that God brings to us through dedicated people like yourself. May God continue to richly bless all who continue to give of themselves freely."

In Memoriam Rendell Barnes

November marked the passing of GFC mobile unit driver, Rendell Barnes. He was one of our first mobile unit staffers and remembered his experiences fondly. Several GFC members remembered Rendell during his funeral. Likewise Rendell designated GFC for memorials.

Volunteer clinics in Press

Several articles have appeared in the medical and lay press lately about volunteer medical efforts. *Parade* magazine, *Medical Tribune*, and *Physicians Financial News Special Report* were all focusing on charitable medical work. Estelle Nichols of the Bradley Free Clinic of Roanoke noted in the *Medical Tribune* article, "When I started here 20 years ago, I was not prepared to experience the tremendous outpouring of help from physicians. The first two physicians who started with us are still with us, and that tells you something. Physicians are extremely concerned about the well-being of patients who need care, and they are very willing, after long, hard days, to give even more. And they keep coming back to do it."

GFC cares on holidays

The calendar may have said it was a holiday, but you could not tell it by the good GFC workers over the long Christmas/New Years holidays. Even during the holidays GFC workers gave extra. **Dee Janick and the Marion Co. Mental Health Workers, Donna and Chuck O'Donnell, Patti Fralich, Lois Pinckley and Dr. Kathy Cohenour and family** all prepared special care packages for the homeless on the streets. **Sheran Davis, R.N.** worked extra at GFC on New Years "to give back some blessings."



Hunger and Homelessness Up

The 10th annual report on Hunger and Homelessness in America did not have much good news. In spite of increased aid, there were more homeless; requests for food aid were up 13%. This desperate situation prompted several recommendations by this U.S. mayors committee: expand federal public housing and rental programs; increase minimum wage and job training programs; expand drug, alcohol, and mental health services. Statistics show 48% of homeless are single men, 39% are women with children, and single women 11%, and 3% unaccompanied children. 26% are mentally ill, 43% are substance abusers, 8% have AIDS or HIV related illness and 23% are veterans. 19% have full or part-time jobs.

Dr. Athar authors new book

Our own GFC volunteer, Dr. Shahid Athar, has his second book out. His latest entitled, Reflections of an American Muslim previewed at Borders Book store recently. His first was Islamic Medicine. Dr. Athar is actively involved in several local efforts to engender religious understanding and tolerance amongst Indianapolis citizens.



Reflection

Lord of Heaven, in your infinite wisdom and mercy
you have granted me a new year,
another chance to turn to you
and find happiness and peace.
Look upon all who have yet
to hear your Name
or experience your compassion,
and grant that we all may discover you
anew in everyone we meet today.

God of gods, Lord of lords,
bless all who call upon you
by other holy names: Allah, Rama,
Elohim, Merciful, All-Knowing, Tao,
and That Which Cannot Be Named.

Hear the prayers of your children,
cast out the evil spirits
of discord and hatred,
protect your servants from
all danger, wrath, and necessity.

From your great and abundant
storehouse of mercies,
fill our minds with a vision
of your glory and open our ears
to the cry of the poor,
the powerless and oppressed.
Through us answer them.

By the power of your Word,
throw down the idols we have
set up in our hearts,
graven images modeled after our fears
and formed in the likeness
of our insecurities.

By the sword of your Truth,
set all captives free,
beginning with us who are enslaved
by our own narrowness and imprisoned
on an island called "Yesterday."

By the fire of your justice purge from our
eyes all that blinds us to your presence in
those we regard as foreign, different, and
"not one of us."

We teeter on edge of eternity, wondering,
fearing, hoping that,
of all the Names of God,
the One who welcomes us on that Day
will be Love.

J. Veneroso, *Maryknoll*, 1995

Health Law (cont.)

physicians, administrative physicians, retired dentists, physicians whose malpractice is limited to the emergency room where they practice, nurses who cannot afford malpractice insurance and many others would be covered. Furthermore, this would provide a further level of coverage for all GFC health providers.

Please write your State Senator and State Representative to encourage the latter proposal. As this idea becomes formulated into a proposed bill, details will be passed on. If you are supportive of such legislation please call the GFC to voice your concern and sign the petition that will be at the GFC Annual Meeting.

Exiting Board Members (cont.)

"Moni" has contributed her legal skills and knowledge of non-profits, reformed our treasury, overseen finance procedures, worked with students at GFC, overseen the selection of new officers, employees, and organizational policies. She has been a supportive voice for GFC in the community and a tireless promoter of GFC to other organizations including the Indianapolis Medical Alliance. Moni will be devoting more of her time to further non-profit responsibilities.

To fondly remember these directors of GFC, come to the Annual Meeting. We will recall some stories of their early GFC adventures and wish them well on their way. If you have stories to tell regarding our departing board members please be sure to come to offer them a fond farewell.

The Annual Meeting will be the first glimpse to see how GFC will change in 1995. Many new events will shape GFC for the coming year and beyond. The time for change is here in medicine and GFC has several striking changes (for the better) about to occur.

Come also to meet our new GFC Board members and hear about the new programs and personnel in the near future.



Welcome to New GFC Volunteers!

GFC welcomes its newest members with thanks and best wishes: Bob Gallen, John Crow, Billy Joe Malone, Terry Moncrief, Charles Mohler, Phil Jones, and Mark Vandiver.

Year End Donations Lift GFC Again

Once again, GFC has been supported to the Max! GFC members and supporters really came through this holiday time with great support. Thanks so much to all for your heartfelt generosity!!

Bonnie Fuller, Dr Hudner Hobbs, Dr Patrick Logan, Dr Ann Bueter, Michelle Morgan, Dan & Christine Pierle, Joe & Sharel Zelenka, Tom & MaryEllen Brown, C. Patricia Walters, Kay Helsley, Susan Peoni, Manuel DeBono, Dr Sharon Guililand, Radiologic Specialists of Indiana, St Pius Church, Sandy Bower, Dr Patrick Bourdillin, Dr Sara McCracken, Elinor Mahaffey, Dr Suzanne Montgomery, Don & Regina Lowe, Alfred Plant, Marcia Jackson, Mr & Mrs Ray Dillon, Josephine & Ralph DeWeese, James Brunnemer, Dr Cedric Johnson, Mr & Mrs George Odom, Dr John Krol, Katherine Ase, Dr Frank Countryman, Elizabeth Rushton, Dr Elisabeth Kline, Charles Test, Mary Frank, Dr John and Sue Horvath, Dr Carl Sputh, Patricia Miller, Dr Walter Tinsley, Alan & Suellen Leighton, Monette Draper, Sid & Charlene Tuchman, Jane Ruch, Indiana Daylily-Iris Foundation, Kathleen Bowers, Joyce Broglin, Jacqueline Hoffman, Clo & Yolanda Gregori, Dr & Mrs Richard Hahn, Dr & Mrs Maurice Arregui, Dr & Mrs Robert Weller, Bruce & Emily Hancock, Indiana Heart Physicians, Sue Schneider, Ben & Shirley Whitlock, Patricia Fralich, Shivaji Gunale, Lois Pinckley, Dr & Mrs David Latz, Morris Wyman, Dr George Revtyak & Diane Richards, Mr & Mrs Mark Varnau, Dr & Mrs Kenneth Gray, TAB Arts & Crafts, ZeZe Witford, Mr & Mrs Tom Burch, Mr & Mrs Yamin, Mary Jane Jacobs, Donald Kercheval, Phillip Price, Elaine Kovalick, St Andrew Presbyterian Church, Ryan Fireprotection, Dr & Mrs Richard Schnute, Mary Klebe, Dr. William and Janet Storer, Dr John and Teresa Schutzman, Dr Richard and Roxanne Kovacs, Dr David Rardon, Dr Karen Mahakian, Dr Barry and Mary Crevey, Dr Paul and Martha Schmidt, Drs Kirk and Sharon Parr, Dr Kamthorn Lee, Dr Philip and Patricia Kirlin, Dr James and Linda Trippi, Dr Russell and Christine Valentine, Dr Mark Frost, Dr George Elmes, and Dr. Martin Garfield.

